

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

Sub A12
1. A zoom lens device wherein an aperture at a predetermined zooming step that is other than a telephoto end and a wide-angle end is smaller than apertures at the other zooming steps.

2. The zoom lens device as defined in claim 1, wherein there are a plurality of zooming steps and an aperture is changed according to a zooming step.

3. The zoom lens device as defined in claim 1, wherein the predetermined zooming step is used only when a macro shooting mode for having a close-up of a subject is chosen.

4. The zoom lens device as defined in claim 3, wherein the predetermined zooming step is close to the telephoto end.

Sub A13
5. A zoom lens device, comprising:
a zoom lens with a plurality of zooming steps;
a choosing device that chooses a macro shooting mode for having a close-up of a subject;
a driving device that moves the zoom lens to a predetermined zooming step that is other than a telephoto end and a wide-angle end when the choosing device chooses the macro shooting mode; and
an aperture restricting device that changes apertures according to the zooming steps so that an aperture at a predetermined zooming step that is other than a telephoto end and a wide-angle end is smaller than apertures at the other zooming steps.

Sub B3
6. A zoom lens device, comprising:
a zoom lens;
sectors that work as a diaphragm; and
an aperture switching device that switches an aperture of the sectors when the zoom lens is moved beyond one of a telephoto end and a wide-angle end.

Sub A14
7. The zoom lens device as defined in claim 6, wherein the aperture switching device is

Sub
A14
end

used only when a macro shooting mode for having a close-up of a subject is chosen.

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